

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 642

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jim Kennedy.

WHEREAS, the members of the General Assembly were profoundly saddened to learn of the death of Mr. Jim Kennedy, chief of staff for former Governor Ned McWherter; and

WHEREAS, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Mr. Kennedy graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and began his distinguished career in state government in 1973 as press secretary for the House Democratic Caucus; and

WHEREAS, as Governor McWherter's chief of staff and later as Tennessee's deputy governor, Jim Kennedy distinguished himself on Capitol Hill as a man of great wisdom and compassion, earning the universal respect and admiration of his peers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennedy's administrative expertise served him well as vice chancellor for administration and facilities management for the Tennessee Board of Regents, in which position he was responsible for managing the board's capital construction program and personnel; and

WHEREAS, in tribute to this remarkable man, former Governor McWherter offered condolences to the family of Jim Kennedy by remembering him as an honest and decent person who was "fiercely loyal" and who had "compassion for all the people he was associated with"; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kennedy served his fellow citizens of Tennessee with a diligence and efficiency that will not soon be duplicated. For 23 years, this man of integrity and impeccable

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moral character meritoriously served the people of Tennessee, putting aside personal concerns to further the cause of responsible government; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kennedy was aptly described by State Comptroller William Snodgrass as a person who “was always in good humor, always seemed to be happy...a good person, an easy person to work with”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Kennedy was an active and devout member of the church; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Jim Kennedy leaves behind will be remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Mary, and their three children, Molly, Sam and Neeley; and

WHEREAS, Jim Kennedy worked tirelessly and without acclaim in service of countless good works; and

WHEREAS, his love, respect and devotion for the responsibilities and duties of his office will be long remembered by his colleagues and the many people whose lives he enriched; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessee public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Jim Kennedy, remembering with admiration his exemplary character and his many selfless contributions to the people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Mr. Kennedy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copies.